

my opinion the smallness of the form, the totally different shape of the capitulum, and its living exclusively on the carapace of turtles are sufficient characters for regarding it as a true species. I give a figure of this form on Pl. II. fig. 13. It is represented by a considerable number of specimens, which are all very small, none having a capitulum of the size of half an inch, the greatest length observed by Darwin. The parts of the mouth are exactly as in *Conchoderma virgatum*. In one of the specimens I investigated, however, the left hand mandible is malformed in a curious way (having seven teeth without the inferior angle), whereas the right hand mandible looks exactly normal. I have figured both mandibles on Pl. II. figs. 14 and 15. These parts, as is well known, often show anomalies of more or less importance.

These specimens were taken from the carapace of a *Chelone*, between Gibraltar and Madeira, January 31, 1873. Darwin says that it is only found on the *Testudo caretta*; whether this is the only turtle on which it lives I cannot say. With regard to the smallness of this variety, I must add that I got specimens from the Royal Museum of the Netherlands (labelled "on *Chelone*, lat. 35° N., long. 14° W."), which were much larger, and even larger than the size given by Darwin (13 mm.), the length of the capitulum being almost 18 mm.¹

Fresh evidence of the great variability of this species is furnished by the study of specimens of this species from the Gulf of Naples. It is the form of the valves, and especially of the scutum, which in these specimens shows a very interesting deviation from the typical form, the three lobes of the scutum not being broad but narrow, as in the *Conchoderma hunteri*, Owen, sp., and the carina which is also much more slender. As this very narrowness of the valves is the most distinctive character by which the latter species can be distinguished from *Conchoderma virgatum*, the study of the Mediterranean form has confirmed my opinion that it is by far the safest way at present to accept only two species, and to consider all the other forms as varieties.

Alepas, Sander Rang, 1829.

With the exception of one species, *Alepas parasita*, Sander Rang, which measures two inches, all the species of this genus are rather small. They are found attached to various living objects, fixed or floating. *Alepas parasita* has been always taken on Medusæ, *Alepas minuta*, Philippi, lives attached to a *Cidaris*, *Alepas cornuta* to an *Antipathes*, *Alepas tubulosa*, Quoy et Gaimard, to a living *Palinurus*.

Off New South Wales, the Challenger collected some specimens of a species of this genus, which were attached to the spines of an Echinid (*Phormosoma*).

The little group of Lepadids which constitute this genus is sharply defined by the following characteristics:—The capitulum is either without valves, or with horny almost

¹ The size is no doubt a very bad characteristic. I received specimens from the Gulf of Naples of *Conchoderma virgatum* as well as of *Conchoderma auritum*, both remarkable for their smallness.